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Attn: Renata B. Hesse  
To Whom It May Concern:

Re: MICROSOFT

In my career of more than 50 years, I encountered a similar situation shortly after WWII when a firm had enjoyed a robust business throughout this period, because of patents granted. Two firms having, essentially 'back-engineered' products, complained to the US government alleging unfair practices and restraint of trade.

The impact on the company for which I then worked, had top management tied up for ten years fighting, and at least management decisions were colored by the lawsuit. Legal fees became a significant budget item, using moneys that should have been directed at new products. After 10 years the case was dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence!

My sympathies have since been entirely with defendants. Of course, these situations were not parallel in magnitude, but in principle. Why should innovators, and entrepreneurs be penalized for their monetary success?

Bill Gates, and party should be honored for starting a new direction in the nation's business. I purchased a PC1 upon my retirement after selling the company I had headed to the British. I gave up on it without an operating system suitable to a non-professional. The a rebuilt Packard Bell 486, with some education, and with a local ISP was on my way, thanks to Bill Gates and party. I am on my 4<sup>th</sup> upgrade which plays well since I cannot play golf anymore, and have over 150 e-mail addresses.

His efforts should be lauded, not censured! I have a small business operated on my HP Pavilion. I bought my secretary a word processor in 1978 at \$14,400. I saw one today for \$199. Thanks to Steve Job and Bill Gates for starting this revolution.

It's too late for me, having retired as President of 2 companies, but in total sympathy with innovators, having headed a company manufacturing diagnostic ultrasound instrumentation in 1964, about 5 years before anyone in the US! No venture capitalists in those days, so I liquidated for the benefit of creditors, and turned to industrial.

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